

II. RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 3-45 are pending in the application. The specific grounds for rejection, and Applicants' response thereto, are set out in detail below.

B. The Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection is Overcome

Claims 1 and 3-45 are rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,271,207. The Action indicates that the rejection can be overcome by the filing of a terminal disclaimer.

Applicants have herein enclosed a terminal disclaimer for filing to obviate the rejection. Therefore, the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is overcome.

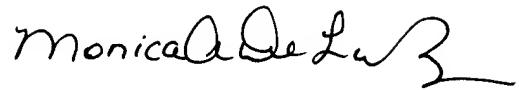
C. The Objection to the Specification has been Overcome

The Action indicates that the specification is objected to because the first paragraph regarding the continuing data in reference to 35 U.S.C. §120 and 35 U.S.C. §119(e) is missing from the as-filed specification. Applicants have herein amended the specification to include the required continuing data. Therefore, the objection to the specification has been overcome.

D. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 536-5639 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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